

METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

January, 2014

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION UPDATE

The punch list for Phase I (the South House and new addition) which is currently housing sophomores, juniors and seniors is being addressed in a timely manner. Phase II (the North House) is on schedule. As a result of the continued progress, the opening of school in September of 2014 is on track. The building project still remains on budget.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL UPDATES:

The popular MHS Science Fair will be held on January 27, from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., in the high school café.

The Winter 'Homecoming' Dance will be held, Saturday, February 8, from 7:00 to 10:00. On Friday night, February 7, the Homecoming King, Queen and Court will be crowned during halftime of the basketball game. This Homecoming Dance is being coordinated by the Boosters' Club and the school staff. It was postponed last October due to work being completed in the field house and the unpredictability of the 'new' football schedule.

There will be a senior class ski trip to Loon Mountain on Saturday, January 18.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL CLUB AND ACTIVITY UPDATES:

MHS staff and students have once again participated in the Arlington Neighborhood Adopt-A-Family Program. We are proud to announce we have sponsored over 15 children!

Junior Class Officers

- are planning the Junior Prom which will be held on April 4, 2013 at DiBurro's
- last year's elected treasure transferred so we are holding a special election this week for the position

Adopt A Grandparent

- has begun brainstorming potential ideas for the "Senior" Prom which would be held this spring

Multicultural Club

- will continue with student presentations on various countries, December's presentation was on Germany.
- Ms. Vaneges and Mr. McCaffrey will give a presentation to the group on the life of Nelson Mandela.

Science Fair

- Science Fair will be held January 27, 2013 from 7:45am - 11:00am & 6:00pm - 8:00pm in the school cafeteria.

Freshman Class

- held a successful Yankee Candle Fundraiser
- will be running a Penny Drive for Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Center

Photo Club

- members presented their fall and winter photos using software applications and TV slide show presentations
- members will choose a photo for the Cape Cod photo competition

MHS Drama Club

- will be making anti-bullying commercials for Methuen Television

Senior Class Play

- Nostalgia to Now ~ A Musical Revue will have performances on April 11th & 12th at 7 PM

Gay Straight Alliance

- Students attended the Northeast Regional GSA meeting at Greater Lowell Tech on December 12th, 2013.

MVP

- Recently volunteered at a local soup kitchen in Lawrence

COMPREHENSIVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Reeve, Principal

Just before winter break we had our Student of the Month Assemblies for all grades and our Honor Roll and CGS Character Awards for the Upper School. Congratulations to all those who received their certificates.

Student Council had their monthly meeting and has picked Jan 8th as Blast from the Past day and Jan 24th as Mix and Match Day.

Chorus performed on Dec 3 and Band had to reschedule their concert from Dec 17 to Jan 22.

Lower School holidays parties were Dec 19 and 20 and went very well.

January 1st our Kids Cancer Club invited all members, family and friends to skate at the Methuen Ice Rink. They had lots of fun and enjoyed hot chocolate.

January 17th is Career Day for our Grade 8 Students.

MARSH GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Stephen Sierpina, Principal

We hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. As we head into the winter season, I would like to keep everyone updated on all the great things happening at the Marsh.

Lower School

We had a very successful turnout for parent-teacher conferences before the winter break and teachers were able to discuss student progress and report cards with approximately 90% of our

families. This communication between the classroom and home is important to student success and is encouraged by administration through newsletters, e-mails, telephone calls, parent meetings and other methods of updating parents and keeping them informed. Term @ Progress Reports will be sent home on January 31st.

The “Active Schools Acceleration Project” (ASAP) was started. Approximately 25 third-grade students are involved in this Tufts University research study to understand the impact of in-school physical activity on children’s health. Researchers collected initial paperwork and data from the students, provided them with an accelerometer to wear for a week to monitor their activity and collected the devices. The students were excited to be involved and the researchers had many positive comments about their polite behavior and interest in the project. A second round of accelerometer data will be collected in the spring from the students.

Teaching and Learning Alliance will be working with the Grade 2 teachers on January 17th with a focus on using data to inform reading/writing instruction. This is the second of six scheduled professional development sessions provided over the school year to improve early elementary literacy proficiency.

Upper School

- We are a recipient of a 2013 Educational Alliance Math & Science Grant sponsored by ExxonMobil
- Grade six Carine Mansour’s essay was selected to compete nationally in the Patriot’s Pen Contest.
- 271 students in upper school (roughly half) will be receiving an honor roll certificate from 1st trimester.
- Approximately 350 upper school parent conferences were held December 12th and 13th.
- 7th and 8th grade band and chorus entertained Methuen’s senior citizens in December.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Marsh School and its students. We are all working towards providing our students with the best possible educational experience.

TENNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Ian Gosselin, Principal

Lower School Happenings:

On December 17, we acknowledged and celebrated the Tenney Stars. Homeroom teachers were asked to select two students who consistently demonstrate behavior based on our Tenney ROCKS theme (Respect, Ownership, Cooperation, Kindness, and Safety). Parents and guardians were invited and we had a very good turnout. On December 22, the Tenney hosted a televised homecoming of one of our second grader’s parents (Vallant family) who had been stationed overseas. Again, we had a wonderful turnout for a heartfelt reunion. We will have a TLA consultant visiting on January 10 to work with our second grade teachers. Our PTO meeting is

Wednesday, January 15, and those are always well attended. Finally, on January 20 (MLK Day), the Tenney PTO is hosting Skate Night at Skateland in Haverhill.

TIMONY GRAMMAR SCHOOL UPDATES

Submitted by Mr. Timothy Miller, Principal

The Timony School is back in full swing as we quickly move toward the end of the second trimester and MCAS. Our teachers, administrators and Academic Coaches continue to work collaboratively to improve our performance as well as give our students an education that provides them a great opportunity for future success.

Some exciting things happened just before the winter break. We had two winners recognized in the VFW Essay contest, conducted our Honor Roll assemblies and our band performed an outstanding holiday concert. In addition, our staff and students provided holiday packages for six families and conducted a coat drive that provided for many others. Our Pop Warner cheerleaders were invited to Orlando FL to compete and came home with a victory. Also, take a moment to look at the most recent edition of the Methuen Life and read about our school wide, 'What Lights Me Up' project.

Overall, The Donald P. Timony Grammar School continues to be a wonderful place to send your children to!

SADD UDATE

9th and Main Campus

The group went bowling at Pilgrim Lanes last month with the Marsh school. Students from the high school group have begun to organize a Relay for Life team. In addition, students have started the planning stages of a basketball tournament to benefit the Relay for Life. The Marsh will join the high school in the organization of the basketball tournament. In addition, the high school will go to laser tag at laser craze the end of this month.

CGS:

Ms. Rubino, Mr. Brouder and Sydney Littlefield are working towards building this group. We will be meeting this week to hand out the permission slips for the first field trip at the end of this month. In addition, we will make ourselves available one night before the field trip in case parents would like to meet.

Marsh:

They joined MHS for a bowling trip. Also, they are hoping to help with the upcoming hoop tournament to benefit the MHS Relay Team.

Tenney:

They are planning the "Blackout Bullying" day. This is a statewide awareness day to wear black to raise awareness around the consequences of bullying. Students have been handing out "Save the Date" fliers (January 28th) and have been posting to their personal social media accounts to remind friends and family to wear all black.

In December, students had an information table with an interactive quiz game for parents to learn about current drug use among middle school students in Massachusetts. Students reported it was a real eye opener to some parents to learn how serious a problem drugs can be and that many parents took some of the information we made available on how to talk to their kids about drug use.

They will also be planning their National Drug Facts Week event for February

Timony:

A former student from the Timony is currently in the process of beginning a SADD chapter at Essex Aggie.